

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1, and 5, 6, 8, and 10, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A medical procedure for connecting a blood-conveying conduit to a blood vessel in a patient's body to provide blood flow outside of the blood vessel, the method comprising:

creating an arteriotomy in the blood vessel by extravascular manipulation at a selected location; and

forming an anastomosis between the blood-conveying conduit and the blood vessel at the selected location to provide blood flow in the blood-conveying conduit outside the blood vessel ~~and away from the selected location;~~

wherein creating said arteriotomy and forming said anastomosis are both performed while the selected location is covered by a substantially intact portion of the epidermis of the body.

2. (Original) The medical procedure according to claim 1 in which the blood vessel is the aorta.

3. (Original) The medical procedure of claim 2 in which the selected location is above the iliac arterial bifurcation of the aorta.

4. (Original) The medical procedure according to claim 2 further comprising:

positioning an end of the blood-conveying conduit outside the blood vessel and near the arteriotomy at the selected location; and

anastomosing the end portion of the blood-conveying conduit to the selected location.

5. (Currently Amended) A medical procedure for connecting a blood-conveying conduit to the aorta in a patient's body, the method comprising:

creating an arteriotomy in the aorta at a selected location;

~~position~~ positioning an end of the blood-conveying conduit near the arteriotomy at the selected location via an initial entry at a location relative to a femoral artery below the inguinal ligament; and

anastomosing the end portion of the blood-conveying conduit and the aorta at the selected location;

wherein creating said arteriotomy and forming said anastomosis are both performed while the selected location is covered by a substantially intact portion of the epidermis of the body; ~~and~~

~~wherein the blood-conveying conduit is positioned via an initial entry at a location relative to a femoral artery below the inguinal ligament.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A medical procedure for connecting a blood-conveying conduit to a blood vessel, the method comprising:

extravascularly creating an arteriotomy in the blood vessel at a selected location;

forming an anastomosis between the blood-conveying conduit and the blood vessel at the selected location; and

positioning a visualization device adjacent the selected location while creating said arteriotomy and forming said anastomosis.

7. (Original) A medical procedure for connecting a blood-conveying conduit to an aorta, the method comprising:

positioning an end of an instrument having a lumen therethrough near a selected location along the aorta;

advancing an end portion of the blood-conveying conduit through the lumen of the instrument to the selected location adjacent the aorta; and

forming an anastomosis between said blood-conveying conduit and the aorta at the selected location.

8. (Currently Amended) The medical procedure according to claim 7 in which the instrument includes an endoscope, further comprising:

positioning an end of an the endoscope ~~having a lumen therethrough~~ near the selected location; and

advancing an end position of the blood-conveying conduit through the lumen of the endoscope to the selected location.

9. (Original) A medical procedure for connecting a blood-conveying conduit to an aorta, the method comprising:

positioning an end of an endoscope having a lumen therethrough near a selected location along the aorta;

advancing an end portion of the blood-conveying conduit through the lumen of the endoscope to the selected location adjacent the blood vessel; and

forming an anastomosis between the said blood-conveying conduit and the aorta at the selected location;

wherein the endoscope is positioned via an initial entry at a location relative to a femoral artery below the inguinal ligament.

10. (Currently Amended) A medical procedure for connecting a blood-conveying conduit to a blood vessel, the method comprising:

advancing an end portion of the blood-conveying conduit to a selected location adjacent the blood vessel;

extravascularly positioning an end of an instrument having a lumen therethrough near a selected location along the blood vessel;

manipulating a surgical device extending through the lumen in the instrument to create an arteriotomy in the blood vessel at the selected location; and thereafter

forming an anastomosis between the blood-conveying conduit and the blood vessel at the selected location.

11. (Original) A method of bypassing a restriction in an artery of a mammal, the method comprising:

providing a graft having a body portion with a first end, a second end and a lumen therebetween;

forming a first aperture in a first artery;

forming a second aperture in a second artery distal of the restriction;

placing the graft between the first aperture in the first artery and the second aperture in the second artery;

inserting an expandable stent intravascularly from a location remote from the first aperture for positioning in the first artery at the location of the first aperture;

expanding the stent to connect the first end of the graft within the first artery; and

attaching the second end of the graft to the second aperture in the second artery.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the first artery is the aorta.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the second end of the graft is attached by suturing.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein expanding the stent comprises:

expanding the stent radially outward to lie against an interior wall of the first artery.